



Homegrown Minneapolis

healthy food. healthy city.

What is Homegrown Minneapolis?

Homegrown Minneapolis is a citywide initiative started in December 2008 by the City of Minneapolis to expand the community's ability to grow, process, distribute, eat and compost more healthy, sustainable, locally grown foods.

Hundreds of Minneapolis residents, City staff and policymakers have made recommendations, kicked off projects and improved City processes related to local food including gardens, farmers markets, urban agriculture, small business startups, and many other areas.

The collaborative efforts are promoting health, protecting the environment, increasing economic vitality, expanding social connectedness and improving food security. City staff and policymakers have increased their understanding of the community's needs while the community has expanded its understanding of local government. This is improving our ability to plan for our food future together and ensure it is more sustainable, healthy and local.

For more information about Homegrown Minneapolis please visit:

www.minneapolismn.gov/homegrown

Homegrown Minneapolis Highlights, 2013

Reducing Regulatory Barriers

- Assisted commercial farmers with paid access to city water, the same as community gardens.
- Revised City bee regulations to make it much easier to manage bee hives on roofs taller than two stories

Economic Development

- Partnered with the cities of San Francisco, Portland and Seattle on a national study to identify local food economic development opportunities.
- Piloted the Homegrown Minneapolis Local program to identify food grown or processed in the City of Minneapolis at the local farmers markets.
- The new Homegrown Business Development Center provided technical assistance and two food related loans.

Access to Healthy Food

- Organized the Minneapolis Food Council's Land Access and Urban Agriculture Committee monthly meetings focusing on increasing access to growing opportunities in the city.



Participants in the Urban Ag Tour explore the McKinley CSA Garden.

- Represented the City of Minneapolis on the Urban Agriculture Technical Advisory Committee for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to develop an Urban Ag Activities Plan.
- Collaborated with the local farmers markets to improve state regulations around the use of pressurized hand sinks which has restricted the ability of markets to offer cooking demonstrations.
- Partnered with the City's Health Department's initiatives (*Healthy Corner stores and food shelves, Farm to School, Salad Bars in the Schools, Healthy Food Policies for Institutions like MPRB, EBT at Farmers Markets and the Local Food Resource Hub Network.*)



Community Engagement

- Wrote a bi-weekly electronic "Homegrown Minneapolis newsletter which is sent to over 1000 individuals.
- Consulted with various community organizations interested in growing food including Little Earth, Minneapolis American Indian Center, Urban Ventures, N. Minneapolis Food Corridor, Gardening Matters, Hmong, Latino and other urban farmers.
- Organized a community open house in 2012 at the East Phillips Cultural and Community Center which attracted 200 participants.
- Organized three Food Council recruitment meetings in low fresh food access areas and two recruitment meetings for youth gardening organizations.
- Facilitated the city's board and commission application being translated into Spanish in order to increase diversity of Food Council-member applications.
- Partnered with the Minneapolis Public Schools to promote families preparing and eating a meal together for Food Day, October 24.
- Assisted in the planning of the urban agriculture tour in Minneapolis sponsored by Hennepin County Extension with 80 people in attendance.
- Represented Homegrown Minneapolis at various community functions, including Food Day at the University of Minnesota urban agriculture training programs, Walker Art Center and at University lectures.
- Engaged 15 community volunteers to conduct a healthy food survey of approximately 100 corner stores to provide data for future potential changes to the City's Staple Food Ordinance.



2012 - 2013 Minneapolis Food Council Members

Aaron Reser, Alison Rotel, Beth Dooley, Bob Lind, Cam Gordon, Deborah Ramos, Eric Larsen, Erica Prosser, Gayle Prest, Julie Ristau, Kristine Igo, Kurt Schreck, Mustafa Sundiata, Neil Oxendale, Patty Bowler, Rebecca Reed, Rhys Williams, Russ Henry, Sara Nelson-Pallmeyer, Katie Lampe, Tracy Singleton